

Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 7, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21 & 27 as set forth below. All pending claims are reproduced below, with changes in the amended claims shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough/double brackets (for deleted matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing instant messaging communication between wireless devices, said method comprising:

connecting a first wireless device to an instant messaging server;

transmitting device address and access code information of the first wireless device from the first wireless device to the instant messaging server;

requesting by the first wireless device a list of active wireless devices from the instant messaging server in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

transferring from the instant messaging server to the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet as the first wireless device;

employing by the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless device at least one additional wireless device belonging to ~~[[a]]~~ the same piconet as the first wireless device;
and

responsive to said employing, establishing by the first wireless device direct instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless device and a second wireless device without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein the second wireless device is one device of the at least one additional wireless device belonging to the same piconet as the first wireless device, and wherein the direct instant messaging between the first wireless device and the second wireless device is direct wireless communication therebetween employing the piconet.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the establishing comprises transitioning the first wireless device and the second wireless device from client/server based communication with the instant messaging server to wireless peer-to-peer communication without need for the instant messaging server therebetween.

3-5. (Previously Canceled).

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing comprises employing Jabber instant messaging protocol and the Bluetooth standard for wireless communication in making a direct instant messaging connection between the first wireless device and the second wireless device.

7. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging method comprising:

establishing a connection between a first wireless client and an instant messaging server;

sending a request from the first wireless client to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless clients in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

receiving the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet at the first wireless client from the instant messaging server;

employing by the first wireless client the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless client a second wireless client for establishing a direct wireless connection therewith; and

establishing direct wireless connection between the first wireless client and the second wireless client across the piconet without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein said direct wireless connection allows direct wireless communication between the first wireless client and the second wireless client employing the piconet.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the list of active wireless clients comprises information allowing said first wireless client to identify at least one wireless client belonging to a same piconet as the first wireless client, and wherein said direct wireless connection is a direct wireless piconet connection between the first wireless client and the second wireless client, wherein the second wireless client comprises one wireless client of said at least one wireless client belonging to the same piconet.

9. (Previously Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing instant messaging communication between wireless devices, said system comprising:

means for connecting a first wireless device to an instant messaging server;

means for transmitting device address and access code information of the first wireless device from the first wireless device to the instant messaging server;

means for requesting by the first wireless device a list of active wireless devices from the instant messaging server in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

means for transferring from the instant messaging server to the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet as the first wireless device;

means for employing by the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless device at least one additional wireless device belonging to [[a]] the same piconet as the first wireless device; and

means for establishing by the first wireless device direct instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless device and a second wireless device without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein the second wireless device is one device of the at least one additional wireless device belonging to the same piconet as the first wireless device identified by the means for employing, and wherein the direct instant messaging communication between the first wireless device and the second wireless device is direct wireless communication therebetween employing the piconet.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the means for establishing comprises means for transitioning the first wireless device and the second wireless device from client/server based communication with the instant messaging server to wireless peer-to-peer communication without need for the instant messaging server therebetween.

12-14. (Previously Canceled).

15. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said means for establishing comprises means for employing Jabber instant messaging protocol and the Bluetooth standard for wireless communication in making a direct instant messaging connection between the first wireless device and the second wireless device.

16. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:

a first wireless device;

an instant messaging server capable of responding to the first wireless device, said instant messaging server providing upon request a list of active wireless devices [[to]] belonging to the same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology; and

wherein the first wireless device is adapted to employ the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify at least one additional wireless device belonging to ~~[[a]]~~ the same piconet as the first wireless device and to establish direct instant messaging communication with a second wireless device across the piconet without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein the second wireless device is one device of the at least one additional wireless device belonging to the same piconet, and wherein the direct instant messaging communication between the first wireless device and the second wireless device is direct wireless communication therebetween employing the piconet.

17. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:

means for establishing a connection between a first wireless client and an instant messaging server;

means for sending a request from the first wireless client to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless clients in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

means for receiving the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet at the first wireless client from the instant messaging server;

means for employing by the first wireless client the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless client a second wireless client for establishing a direct wireless connection therewith; and

means for establishing direct wireless connection between the first wireless client and the second wireless client across the piconet without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein said direct wireless connection allows direct wireless communication between the first wireless client and the second wireless client employing the piconet.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the list of active wireless clients comprises information allowing said first wireless client to identify at least one wireless client belonging to a same piconet as the first wireless client, and wherein said direct wireless connection is a direct wireless piconet connection between the first wireless client and the second wireless client, wherein the second wireless client comprises one wireless client of said at least one wireless client belonging to the same piconet.

19. (Previously Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:

a first wireless client adapted to establish connection to an instant messaging server;

wherein the first wireless client sends a request to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless client(s) in a same piconet as the first wireless client for instant messaging, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

said instant messaging server forwarding the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to the first wireless client responsive to said request;

wherein the first wireless client employs the list of active wireless clients in identifying at the first wireless client a second wireless client in the same piconet for establishing a direct wireless connection therewith; and

wherein the first wireless client establishes direct wireless connection with the second wireless client across the piconet without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein the direct wireless connection allows direct wireless communication between the first wireless client and the second wireless client employing the piconet.

21. (Currently Amended) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of establishing instant messaging communication between wireless devices, the method comprising:

connecting a first wireless device to an instant messaging server;

transmitting device address and access code information of the first wireless device from the first wireless device to the instant messaging server;

requesting by the first wireless device a list of active wireless devices from the instant messaging server in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

transferring from the instant messaging server to the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet as the first wireless device;

employing by the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless device at least one additional wireless device belonging to [[a]] the same piconet as the first wireless device;
and

responsive to said employing, establishing by the first wireless device direct instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless device and a second wireless device without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein the second wireless device is one device of the at least one additional wireless device belonging to the same piconet as the first wireless device, and wherein the direct instant messaging between the first wireless device and the second wireless device is direct wireless communication therebetween employing the piconet.

22. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 21, wherein the establishing comprises transitioning the first wireless device and the second wireless device from client/server based communication with the instant messaging server to wireless peer-to-peer communication without need for the instant messaging server therebetween.

23-25. (Previously Canceled).

26. (Original) The at least one program storage device of claim 21, wherein said establishing comprises employing Jabber instant messaging protocol and the Bluetooth standard for wireless communication in making a direct instant messaging connection between the first wireless device and the second wireless device.

27. (Currently Amended) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform an instant messaging method, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a first wireless client and an instant messaging server;

sending a request from the first wireless client to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless clients in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet being implemented with Bluetooth technology and having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

receiving the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet at the first wireless client from the instant messaging server;

employing by the first wireless client the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless client a second wireless client for establishing a direct wireless connection therewith; and

establishing direct wireless connection between the first wireless client and the second wireless client across the piconet without further employing the instant messaging server, wherein said direct wireless connection allows direct wireless communication between the first wireless client and the second wireless client employing the piconet.

28. (Previously Presented) The at least one program storage device of claim 27, wherein the list of active wireless clients comprises information allowing said first wireless client to identify at least one wireless client belonging to a same piconet as the first wireless client, and wherein said direct wireless connection is a direct wireless piconet connection between the first wireless client and the second wireless client, wherein the second wireless client comprises one wireless client of said at least one wireless client belonging to the same piconet.

29. (Previously Canceled).

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